

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks submitted herein. Applicants have amended the specification to include a paragraph claiming the benefit of priority to related applications. Applicants also have amended the specification to add an Abstract. The attached Abstract corresponds to the English language Abstract that was published in the PCT application.

The amended claim set submitted in the PCT application on September 18, 2004 is included herein for the Examiner's convenience. Claim 4 has been further amended herein to remove the phrase "preferably an average molecular weight of from 5 to 200 kDa," and new claim 15 has been added herein to recite that the hydroxyethylstarch has an average molecular weight of from 5 to 200 kDa. In addition, claims 3-14 have been further amended to remove multiple dependencies. Thus, no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

Applicants ask that claims 1-15 as presented herein be examined. The enclosed filing fee takes into account the pending claims following entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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